(d) if so, to what extent it will be done away in the Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government have decided that, by the year 2004-2005, there would be a two tier structure for customs duties, namely, 10% and 20%. The existing rates would be adjusted and subsumed in these two basic rates with some exceptions on account of WTO bindings or higher tariffs for agricultural products.

Regulation of professional conduct of auditors

5016. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-Enron, in which the collusion of the auditors was established, Government are planning to effectively regulate the professional conduct of the auditors in India;

(b) whether Government would make it mandatory for the corporate to appoint an auditor at the discretion of its minority share-holders and not by the controlling group;

(c) whether Government would also propose that auditors should be barred from acting as consultants and from representing IT cases of the companies who are their clients; and

(d) the other measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB V1KHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial crunch in States

5017. SHRI VUAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are feeling the financial difficulties as a result of not getting the anticipated amounts of Central assistance because of the slump in revenue mobilisation by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the amount meant for transfer to the States as part of their share in the Central revenue mobilisation, State-wise; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to financially assist the States particularly those facing acute financial difficulties?